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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME CELEBRATES FOUR YEARS

*Boulder City, Nevada (Wednesday, August 9, 2006)* Four years ago, when the Nevada State Veterans Home first opened its doors, you couldn't open a newspaper without reading about one of the many misfortunes that seemed to plague the Home. First, there were problems with construction, then staffing, then licensing, then finances – it seemed the Home was destined for disaster. But that all changed with the arrival of new leadership and, as the Home celebrates its fourth anniversary this week, legislators, taxpayers, and most importantly, veterans in need of skilled nursing care, can be proud of the Nevada's only Home for veterans.

Today, the Home's construction woes have been settled and its staffing is stable. The Home has earned licenses and recognition from VA, Medicare and Medicaid, and its funding worries appear to be over. In fact, the Home has become so popular its approaching capacity, with an occupancy rate of around 94% - nearly 15% higher than the national average – and applicants are waiting to get in.

So, what's the secret of the Home's turn around? According to Nevada Office of Veterans Services Director, Tim Tetz, it's the attitude of the Home's team of employees. "I've never seen a more dedicated group of individuals; they truly believe in their mission of 'Caring for Americas Heroes.' The entire team seems to radiate a positive energy that translates into superior care."

Tetz details the Home's numerous programs to make his point: Medical, Social, Nursing, Activities, Rehabilitation, Radiology, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Psychiatry, Spiritual, Dietary, Cosmetology, Veterans Advocacy, Housekeeping, and Laundry services are all offered

(more)

on-site for the convenience of the Home's 170 residents. Last year, on-site Dental and Audiology programs were added and plans are underway to add Vision and End-of-Life programs. According to Tetz, "The goal is to care for the 'entire' person and not just their medical needs."

Most people would agree that today's Nevada State Veterans Home is quite different from the Home that admitted its first resident nearly four years ago. But, despite the Home's achievements, there seems to be a tendency for some people to dwell on the past – something the Home's Administrator, Gary Bermeosolo, was recently reminded of when *Consumer Reports* released a nursing home report utilizing outdated information.

"A couple of years ago, our Home didn't do so well in a survey and we received two serious deficiencies," Bermeosolo said. "Unfortunately, *Consumer Reports* utilized this outdated information and some local media picked up on it. They failed to read the small print that stated the information was two years old and, once again, our Home received some negative publicity. Needless to say, it was a 'slap in the face' for some very dedicated individuals. It's unfortunate, considering how far they have brought the Home. But they are a dedicated group and the Home just keeps getting better."

Tetz notes, "The Home and Nevada Office of Veteran Services epitomize a government agency responsive and caring to the issues and its constituents." The Home's Administrator, Gary Bermeosolo, agrees with Tetz. He points to the Home's last three compliance surveys, (inspections) as proof of the Home's continued progress. "In the beginning, we had some rocky times, but we all believed we could make this Home into something special. The Home's last three surveys, from federal and state regulatory agencies, have been exemplary. I think our Home has become 'something special' and I couldn't be prouder of our team. I can't wait to see where we'll be in another four years."

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The Nevada State Veterans Home is a 180-bed skilled nursing facility, serving veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. The Home, located in Boulder City, Nevada, is dedicated to "Caring for America's Heroes." For information about the Nevada State Veterans Home or the Nevada Office of Veterans Services, please call (702) 332-6864, or visit the website at [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov).